**Cheating with foreign tourists**

606. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a large scale cases of cheating of foreign tourists by tour operators have been reported in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tourists were cheated and forced to go to Kashmir by unscrupulous operations;

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent harassment of foreign tourists; and

(d) what are the various facilities that have been offered for these tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) 11 cases in connection with cheating of foreign tourists by tour operators, including one case in which a foreign tourist is alleged to have been misguided by a tour operator to visit Kashmir instead of Kullu-Manali, were registered by Delhi Police during 2001,2002, 2003 and upto 20th November, 2004 as indicated below:—

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of cases registered |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2001 | 04 |
| 2. | 2002 | 03 |
| 3. | 2003 | 02 |
| 4. | 2004 (upto 20th Nov.) | 02 |

(c) and (d) With a view to provide security/facilities to foreign tourist, Delhi Police has set up "Delhi Tourist Police" under which one Toyota Qualis vehicle each with one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable/Constable and one woman Constable alongwith a driver is deployed at 10 important points, namely, Indira Gandhi International Air Port, New Delhi Railway Station, Hazarat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Raj Ghat, Red Fort, Qutab Minar, Palika Bazar, Janpath, India Gate and Paharganj.

The other measures taken by the Government to provide security/facilities to foreign tourists include keeping surveillance over the areas frequented

by tourists including taxis/autos leaving airports along with tourists; running of Pre-paid Fare Booths; issue of complaint cards to passengers availing taxi facility at the airports; launching of a drive to verify the character and antecedents of taxi drivers operating at Indira Gandhi International Airport and issue of Public Service Vehicle Badges to them.

**Weapons acquired by terrorist**

607. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North-East outfits *viz* ULFA and NDFB are acquiring large number of sophisticated weapons of foreign origin through Bangladesh whereas our police force are provided with only ordinary equipment; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the Police modernization in North-East and the measures taken to stop the supply of weapons to these rebels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Repots indicate that United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and other militant outfits in the North East have been acquiring sophisticated weapons of foreign origin through Bangladesh. It is, however, not correct to say that firepower available with State Police/Central Police Organizations is no match to weaponry held by militants.

(b) The Government is implementing a.scheme for modernization of State Police Forces to equip them with sophisticated weapons/equipments/ bulletproof vehicles to deal with the militancy in the States. The Government has sensitized Border Guarding Forces (BGF) and adopted various measures to check the supply of illegal arms into India. The Government has also taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh at various fora.